

2nd Symposium on Fire Economics, Planning and Policy:
A Global View
Cordoba, Spain
April 19-22, 2004

Submitted By: Howard Roose, Bureau of Land Management and Louis Ballard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Dates and Locations of Travel: April 17-23, 2004, Cordoba, Spain

Brief Description of Itinerary/Activities: We departed Boise at 0800 MDT on April 17, 2004.

En route, we changed airplanes in Salt Lake City, UT and Atlanta, GA before arriving in Madrid, Spain at 0815 local time on April 18, 2004. In Madrid, we transferred to the commuter train to travel to Cordoba, Spain arriving the afternoon of April 18, 2004.



AVE Station, Madrid



Madrid, Spain



Olive orchards between Madrid and Cordoba



Conifer stands and brush fields with fuels breaks

On Monday, April 19, 2004 we traveled to the University of Cordoba to register for the conference and receive conference materials.

We attended the conference from Tuesday, April 20 through Thursday, April 22. We listened to overviews of fire issues and problems in North America, South America and Europe. From the overviews, it was evident that similarities and differences existed between regions in how fire is managed. At this time we learned that the European Union Coordination Center was opened in Brussels, Belgium in 2003 for the primary purpose of coordinating fire resources with the European Union.



Howard Roose @ University of Cordoba



Howard presenting paper at symposium

After the overviews we listened to presentations from economic researchers from North America, South America and Europe with a focus on wildland fire management. During that day we made presentations relating to our development of the Fire Program Analysis System.

We gained an appreciation of the problems that the people of Spain face relating to wildland fire management.

Their wildland fires do not reach the size that we face in North America, but due to the land ownership and vegetation patterns, the consequences of wildland fire to vegetation and soil is great. We found that structure loss is much less pronounced compared to North America due to the fact that structures in Spain are generally constructed of materials that are not as flammable. We heard some descriptions as to weather variables within the country that are unique and have their own set of problems.

On Wednesday afternoon, we participated in a poster session. Throughout the week we listened to many interesting and informative presentations. On Thursday, Howard made a presentation on Fire Management Planning.

Thursday evening, we traveled to Madrid, Spain via commuter train and returned to Boise, Idaho on Friday, April 23.



Roman Bridge, Cordoba

Findings/Observations/Conclusions:
We found that the Fire Program Analysis System that we are developing may have application in any of the countries that participated in the symposium. We were able to come away from the conference with papers and notes that we will use in the future development of the Fire Program Analysis System.

Recommendation: Cooperative efforts should be explored so we can share our

knowledge of the Fire Program Analysis System – Preparedness Module and the following modules with Spain, Norway and other interested countries should be explored. Spain is ready for this type of analysis to provide them the valuable information that the outputs of this analysis can provide.